



# INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

TO: Lakeland Christian Academy  
FROM: Timothy Schultz, Hearing Officer, Indiana State Board of Education  
RE: Appeal by Lakeland Christian Academy of its 2015-16 Letter Grade  
DATE: April 5, 2017

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**Finding:** Lakeland Christian Academy's appeal of its 2015-16 category placement of an "F" grade should be granted.

## I. Facts

Lakeland Christian Academy ("Lakeland") received a letter grade of "F" for the 2015-16 school year. Lakeland, accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International and by North Central Association-Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement but not an Indiana Department of Education ("IDOE") accredited school, appealed the "F" grade due to concerns that their graduation rate and College and Career Readiness ("CCR") scores were not calculated accurately.

## II. Argument and Analysis

Graduation Rate: Lakeland contends that the school's graduation rate should be recalculated based on data, provided during the appeal process, which demonstrates that certain student data was not accounted for when Lakeland's grade was calculated. As part of the appeal process, the State Board of Education's ("Board") Senior Director of Accountability and Assessment reviewed the data provided by Lakeland. Upon review, it was determined that several of Lakeland's foreign exchange students should be removed from the denominator of the graduation rate calculation. Thus, Lakeland's graduation rate should be changed from 16/23 (69.57%) to 16/20 (80.0%).

Lakeland also contends that certain students should be removed from graduation rate calculation because they were homeschooled or they were enrolled at another school. As students that enroll in another school are automatically removed from a school's 4 year cohort rosters, this issue is not relevant for purposes of this appeal. Regarding Lakeland's homeschool student issue, a review of the materials submitted by the school does not support the contention that the graduation rate should be altered to account for homeschool students.

College and Career Readiness: Lakeland also contends that its CCR score should be recalculated based on data submitted during the appeal process. The Board's Senior Director of Accountability and Assessment reviewed the information and concluded that 12 out of the 16 students received dual credit. Upon review, it was determined that Lakeland should be given full credit (100 points) regarding the school's CCR score.

For the foregoing reasons, Lakeland's appeal should be granted and its "F" grade should be amended to a "C."